

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview of April 18, 2005 to discuss this application.

I. Status of the claims

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 1-11 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12 and 18 were amended to delete a limitation. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed. See, for instance, page 2, lines 17-19 and page 10, lines 11-14. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the above amendment.

II. Rejection of claims 1-11 based on Hunter et al. U.S. Patent no. 6,573,473

Turning now to the Office action, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunter et al. U.S. Patent no. 6,573,473 ("Hunter"). Without commenting on the correctness or incorrectness of the Examiner's rejection based on Hunter, the Applicants cancelled these claims in favor of claims 12-18 which the Examiner had found to be allowable. Accordingly, the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1-11 is now moot.

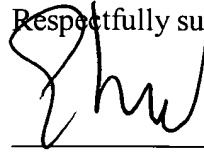
III. Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and discussion, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for an allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and a favorable determination is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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